

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222196

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: GRANFIL CALL ON ARMITAGE: UN INCIDENT

REF: BELGRADE 4858

1. SUMMARY: IN CALL ON ARMITAGE SEPTEMBER 15 YUGOSLAV AM-BASSADOR GRANFIL BRIEFLY DEALT WITH SUBJECT OF MINIC VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THEN RAISED GOY CONCERN OVER EMIGRE INCIDENT IN UNGA SEPTEMBER 10 (USUN 4159). HE SAID GOY CONCERN WAS THAT "SOMEONE -- NOT USG" PROTECTS EMIGRE GROUPS CAUSING PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW LACK OF PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS OF YUGOSLAV OFFICES. ARMITAGE POINTED OUT UN'S JURISDICTION IN THE ONE CASE GOY WAS NOW RAISING WITH US, REITERATED US POLICY OF SUPPORTING YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY, AND STRESSED THAT MILICEVIC'S CHARGES OF USG COMPLICITY IN EMIGRE ACTIVITY HOSTILE TO GOY -- MADE TO DCM IN BELGRADE
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(REFTEL) -- WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THIS GOVERNMENT. END
SUMMARY

2. GRANFIL'S DEMARCHE ON UN INCIDENT STARTED WITH EXPRES-

SION OF CONCERN OVER SUCH OPEN "USTASHI ACTIVITY."
DISTURBANCE WOULD NOT IN ITSELF BE SO SERIOUS, HE CONTINUED,
IF IT HAD NOT COME AFTER PROLONGED SERIES OF INCIDENTS

AGAINST GOY PERSONNEL AND OFFICES, STARTING WITH BOMBINGS
OF CONSULATES IN 1967 AND ENDING WITH BOMBING OF UN MISSION
IN JUNE THIS YEAR. NONE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THESE
CRIMES HAD LED TO PUNISHMENT OF TERRORISTS INVOLVED.
GRANFIL SAID GOY HAD FEELING THAT SUCH INACTIVITY ONLY
ENCOURAGES EMIGRE GROUPS TO DO MORE AND WAS DISTURBED THAT
"SOMEONE PROTECTS THESE GROUPS." "NOT USG," GRANFIL
HASTENED TO ADD. BUT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENTS TO
PETRIC ABOUT THE CROATS (USUN 4238) "ASTONISHED" YUGOSLAVS,
GRANFIL CLAIMED, MAKING IT SOUND AS IF INTERESTS OF CROATS
IN YUGOSLAVIA WERE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF TERRORIST
EMIGRES, AS IF SITUATION OF CROATS IN YUGOSLAVIA COULD BE
COMPARED WITH THAT OF PUERTO RICANS IN US. CROATS WERE
NOT "MINORITY" IN YUGOSLAV SETTING BUT ONE OF MAJOR CON-
STITUENT GROUPS. RIGHT NOW BOTH PRESIDENT AND VICE
PRESIDENT WERE CROATS. GRANFIL ENDED WITH REQUEST THAT
USG SHOW RESULTS FROM ITS INVESTIGATIONS OF BULAJIC CASE
AND OF BOMBING OF YUGOSLAV UN MISSION.

3. ARMITAGE BEGAN WITH COMMENT THAT WE HAD IN TURN BEEN
ASTONISHED BY MILICEVIC'S STATEMENT IN BELGRADE THAT
ATTITUDE OF US AUTHORITIES ENABLED "TERRORIST EMIGRES" TO
GET AWAY WITH ACTS LIKE THAT AT UN. THERE HAD BEEN DEMON-
STRATION BY THREE MEN IN UNGA GALLERY, WHOLE INCIDENT
LASTING LESS THAN TWO MINUTES. SUCH INCIDENTS HAPPEN FROM
TIME TO TIME AND ARE PAID LITTLE ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY
WHEN, AS IN THIS CASE, NO APPARENT DANGER TO SECURITY IS
INVOLVED. ARMITAGE ADVISED YUGOSLAVS TO ADDRESS THEIR
CONCERN TO UN AUTHORITIES, WHO HAD JURISDICTION OVER UNGA
BUILDING. HE ASSURED GRANFIL OF OUR CONCERN FOR MINIC'S
CONTINUED SAFETY WHILE IN THE US. PICTURES OF THREE
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN UN INCIDENT HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO
US AND CITY AUTHORITIES. "WE ARE MINDFUL OF OUR RESPONSI-
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BILITIES TOWARD YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN OUR COUNTRY AND
BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO GOY REQUESTS. WE SHALL
TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO VIOLATE US LAWS IN ACTS
DIRECTED AT THESE GUESTS IN OUR COUNTRY. INVESTIGATIONS
OF BULAJIC CASE AND UN MISSION BOMBING ARE BEING PURSUED
WITH VIGOR."

4. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S CONVERSATION ABOUT ETHNIC
MINORITIES HAD BEEN PRIVATE ONE OVER LUNCH WITH SEVERAL
OTHER AMBASSADORS, ARMITAGE POINTED OUT. ARMITAGE RECON-
STRUCTED GENESIS OF PROBLEM IN PETVIC'S COMMENT TO
AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN THAT HE SHOULD NOT TAKE PUERTO RICO
QUESTION SERIOUSLY AS ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN US INTERNAL

AFFAIRS. ARMITAGE ASKED WHAT REACTION WOULD BE IN YUGOSLAVIA WERE WE TO OFFER OBSERVER STATUS IN AN INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATION TO SOME VERY SMALL GROUP SEEKING THE SEPARATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF A PART OF YUGOSLAVIA. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE READ IN CONTEXT THAT IT IS NOT FOR ANOTHER GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUCH AS ETHNIC OR OTHER MINORITY PROBLEMS.

5. ARMITAGE SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE THAT US POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE TO SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WHICH CALL INTO QUESTION YUGOSLAV INTEGRITY HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH OUR POLICY, AND NO EMIGRE GROUP HAS ANY INFLUENCE ON THIS POLICY.

6. USG FINDS UNACCEPTABLE MILICEVIC'S STATEMENT TO OUR DCM IN BELGRADE CHARGING THAT US AUTHORITIES WERE SOMEHOW "BEHIND INCIDENTS" AND THAT "THIS FACT WILL HAVE EFFECT ON RELATIONS." SUCH A STATEMENT IS AS IRRECONCILABLE WITH FACTS OF US POLICY AS IT IS WITH EXPRESSED YUGOSLAV DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

7. ARMITAGE NOTED OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MUCH CONSTRUCTIVE WORK TO DO. HE HOPED WE WOULD NOT BE DEFLECTED BY UNREAL ISSUES FROM IMPORTANT TASK OF BUILDING EVEN STRONGER
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BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONS IN FUTURE.

8. MEETING ENDED AMICABLY ENOUGH, WITH GRANFIL SUGGESTING THAT, IF THERE HAD BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMBASSADORS MOYNIHAN AND PETRIC, TWO MEN COULD MEET AND "CLARIFY" MISUNDERSTANDING. ARMITAGE NOTED TWO AMBASSADORS HAD MET SUBSEQUENTLY IN ATMOSPHERE OF APPARENT CORDIALITY. GRANFIL WANTED US TO KNOW THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD HAD "SEVERAL SHARP CLASHES AND SPLITS" WITH CUBANS AT LIMA NONALIGNED CONFERENCE, FACT WHICH MADE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S COMMENTS TO PETRIC SEEM PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE CUBANS HAD WANTED TO HAVE CONFERENCE TAKE A POSITION ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE). KISSINGER

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